Allocation Considering Agent Importance in Constrained Robust Multi-Team Formation

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Abstract: Forming a team to accomplish a given mission is a significant challenge in multi-agent systems. The mission-oriented team formation problem is selecting agents with a set of skills to accomplish a mission. Each mission can be accomplished by assigning a team with the necessary skills. Furthermore, the team needs to accomplish the mission, even if an agent fails in an environment where agents are lost between missions. In addition, other aspects besides the ability to accomplish the mission are considered in team formation.

In this paper, we focus on the mission-oriented constrained robust multi-team formation problem. We define a framework, decision, and several optimization problems. Then, we propose an algorithm for the optimization problem with fixed robustness. In our experiments, we confirmed the search efficiency by changing the order in which agents are searched. The results show that a short runtime is obtained in searching for agents with high importance when the ratio of solutions to the search space is large. Furthermore, the runtime is minimized in searching for easily pruned agents when the ratio of solutions to the search space is small.

1 INTRODUCTION

The mission-oriented team formation problem (Liemhetcharat and Veloso, 2012; Nair and Tambe, 2005a) is the problem of forming the best possible team to accomplish an interactive mission given a limited set of resources. The team formation problem can be applied to many problems, including those related to multi-agent collaboration, such as RoboCup rescue teams (Parker et al., 2016), unmanned aerial vehicle operations (George et al., 2010), and online soccer prediction games (Matthews et al., 2012). However, multiple factors should be considered when trying to apply the team formation problem to real-world problems (Moz and Pato, 2004). For example, robustness (i.e., the ability of the team to continue the mission) is crucial in a dynamic environment, where an agent may be lost during a mission, such as when an agent is injured in the formation of a rescue team. In addition, it may be prohibited to assign robots from competing companies to the same team if different companies provide the robots used in the rescue team.

(Demirovic et al., 2018), a study on recoverability, and (Schwind et al., 2021), a study on partial robustness, are representative of works that generalize the ability of a mission to achieve its goals. These works are valid because of the potentially huge costs in ensuring robustness. However, this paper focuses on the influence of factors other than mission accomplishment ability on team formation, aiming at forming a robust multi-team with constraints. The constraint means that an agent may be lost during a mission, where robots from competing companies are prohibited from being assigned to the same team. However, a mission-oriented robust multi-team formation considering constraints has not been studied. In addition, efficient algorithms have not been proposed. Compared to some existing works (Okimoto et al., 2016), this paper considers the robustness and cost of each team simultaneously (i.e., bi-objective optimization) with the problem constraints.

In this paper, we define a new framework called mission-oriented constrained robust multi-team formation (MOCRMTF). MOCRMTF considers the decision problem and some optimization problems. A team is considered k-robust (for a given non-negative integer k) if k agents can be removed from the team and the team can accomplish the given mission. The decision problem is whether a team can be formed or not for a given cost x and robustness k if all teams under cost x satisfy k-robust, and multi-teams satisfy the constraints. We can also consider the optimiza-
tation problem of fixing the robustness of teams and finding the least-cost team that satisfies the robustness. As another optimization problem, we can consider MOCRMTF as a multi-objective constraint optimization problem (MO-COP) (i.e., optimizing both the cost and robustness of a team). Compared to the existing works (Okimoto et al., 2016), the goal of this paper is to form a robust multi-team with constraints.

We clarify classes to which MOCRMTF belongs in the theory of computational complexity. From a computational perspective, the mission-oriented team formation problem is similar to a well-known NP-complete decision problem (e.g., SET COVER problem). An existing work (Okimoto et al., 2016) on task-oriented robust team formation (TORTF) shows the decision problem with NP-complete. In MOCRMTF, we need to consider constraints and multiple teams, unlike TORTF. We prove that MOCRMTF belongs to NP-complete and its computational class is the same as TORTF’s. We also propose an algorithm for the optimization problem of finding the least-cost team that satisfies the robustness goal. The experiments show that the runtime varies, depending on the order of the search. We also show that the value of robustness is significantly limited by the number of agents and teams in MOCRMTF.

The remainder of the study is organized as follows. First, we describe MOCRMTF. Next, we propose the optimization algorithm for MOCRMTF and prove MOCRMTF’s computational complexity. Then, we demonstrate the experimental simulation results and discussions. Finally, we conclude this study.

2 RELATED WORK

The problem of forming teams has been the subject of much research. Classically, a set of tasks and a set of agents are provided, and each agent has some costs and skills to accomplish each task. The performance of a team is often evaluated by the set of capabilities of its members chosen from a limited set of resources.

(Nair and Tambe, 2005b) addressed the team formation problem to maximize expectations so that teams have the necessary skills for irregular missions.

There are also several studies on team formation problems, where agents are assumed to be lost. Robustness was proposed by (Okimoto et al., 2015) as the most robust concept for agent loss.

(Demirovic et al., 2018) proposed recoverability as a generalization of the ability to accomplish a mission. Recoverability allows a team to function in the event of an agent loss by employing an additional agent with a smaller cost and capability.

(Schwind et al., 2021) proposes partial robustness, which guarantees that a team will function to some extent in the event of an agent loss. However, the formation of a team may consider factors other than the ability to accomplish the mission. For example, gender balance, and assignment of robots from competing companies.

To the best of our knowledge, no team formation problem simultaneously considers agent losses and non-skill factors.

3 MISSION-ORIENTED CONSTRAINED ROBUST MULTI-TEAM FORMATION (MOCRMTF)

MOCRMTF is defined on the basis of (Okimoto et al., 2016).

Definition 1 (Constrained Multi-Team Formation Problem (CMTF))

A constrained multi-team formation problem is defined by a tuple $\text{CMTF} = \langle A, S, M, \text{cost}, \text{skill}, \text{constraint} \rangle$, where $A = \{a_1, a_2, \ldots, a_n\}$ is a set of all agents, $S = \{s_1, s_2, \ldots, s_i\}$ is a set of all skills of agents, $M = \{m_1, m_2, \ldots, m_g\}$ is a set of missions, and $m_i \subseteq 2^S$ for $1 \leq i \leq g$. In addition, $\text{cost} : 2^A \times M \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ is the cost function, $\text{skill}$ is a map of $A \rightarrow 2^S$, and $\text{constraint}$ is a mapping of $A \rightarrow 2^n$, and $\text{constraint}$ is a set of constraints for each agent, and $c_i \subseteq A$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$. The function cost computes a team’s cost, the map skill outputs an agent’s skill, and the map constraint is used to manage the constraint state of the team. Note that $n, t, i, g \in \mathbb{N}$. The set of agents $T \subseteq A$ is called the team, and the pair $(T, m)$ is called the mission team, $m \in M$.

Afterward, we assume $\text{CMTF} = \langle A, S, M, \text{cost}, \text{skill}, \text{constraint} \rangle$, a constrained multi-team formation problem given a mission team $(T, m)$.

Definition 2 (Mission Team Cost)

A non-negative integer $x$, $(T, m)$ is called $x$-costly if the cost of $(T, m)$ is less than $x$: $\text{cost}(T, m) \leq x$. For simplicity in this paper, it is assumed that the cost of a team are given by the sum of the costs of each agent $a_i$ of team $T$, that is, $\text{cost}(T, m) = \sum_{a_i \in T} \text{cost}(a_i, m)$.

In this paper, we conduct experiments, where the cost is unaffected by the mission content, but we define the
framework as one in which the cost can be affected by
the mission for the general problem of MOCRMTF.

Definition 3 (Mission Team Validity)

\((T, m)\) is said to be valid if \((T, m)\) can accomplish \(m: m \subseteq \bigcup_{a \in T} \text{skill}(a)\).

Definition 4 (Mission Team Robustness)

Given a non-negative integer \(k\), \((T, m)\) is called \(k\)-robust if the following conditions are met: \((T \setminus T', m)\) is valid for any \(T' (T' \subseteq \text{Tand}|T'| \leq k)\).

We define the team constraints introduced in this study to consider points other than the ability to perform a mission in the mission-oriented team formation problem.

Definition 5 (Mission Team Constraints)

Because \((T, m)\) satisfies a constraint, the following equation holds: \(T \cap \bigcup_{a \in T} \text{constraint}(a) = \emptyset\). This constraint prohibits an agent \(a\) from being classified into the same team with an agent that is an element of the set obtained by the mapping \(\text{constraint}\) and defines an arbitrary pair of agents that cannot be paired.

We define a mission multi-team and its associated cost, robustness, and constraints.

Definition 6 (Mission Multi-Team)

A set consisting of mission teams is called a mission multi-team \(\text{MMT}\): \(\text{MMT} = \{\langle T_i, m_i\rangle | T_i \subseteq A, m_i \in M, T_i \cap T_j = \emptyset, 1 \leq i \leq j \leq g\}\).

Definition 7 (Mission Multi-Team Cost)

Given a non-negative integer \(x_M\), \(\text{MMT}\) is called \(x_M\)-costly if the sum of the costs of an element \(\langle T_i, m_i\rangle\) of \(\text{MMT}\) is less than or equal to \(x_M\): \(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq g} \text{cost}(T_i, m_i) \leq x_M\). If \(\sum_{1 \leq i \leq g} \text{cost}(T_i, m_i) = x_M\), the cost of that multi-team is \(x_M\).

Definition 8 (Mission Multi-Team Validity)

\(\text{MMT}\) is regarded as valid if each mission team \(\langle T_i, m_i\rangle\) of \(\text{MMT}\) is valid \(1 \leq i \leq g\).

Definition 9 (Mission Multi-Team Robustness)

\(\text{MMT}\) and a non-negative integer \(k_M\), \(\text{MMT}\) is \(k_M\)-robust if \(k_M \leq \min(k_i | 1 \leq i \leq g)\). If \(\min(k_i | 1 \leq i \leq g) = k_M\), the robustness of that multi-team is \(k_M\).

Definition 10 (Mission Multi-Team Constraint)

\(\text{MMT}\) satisfies a constraint if all mission teams \(\langle T_i, m_i\rangle\) of \(\text{MMT}\) satisfy the constraint.

In this paper, we assume that a multi-team is simply a set of multiple teams and that the effects of inter-team relationships are not considered. In addition, robustness and constraints do not change the complexity of the team formation problem. Therefore, the computational class of MOCRMTF is the same as mission-oriented team formation. Therefore, the decision problem of MOCRMTF is NP-complete (Okimoto et al., 2015).

Definition 11 (Decision Problem)

Input: \(\text{CMTF} = \langle A, S, M, \text{cost, skill, constraint} \rangle\), maximum cost \(x\), robust goal \(k(x,k \in N)\).

Output: \(\text{MMT}\) that satisfies the constraints and is \(x\)-costly and \(k\)-robust.

Considering the cost and robustness of mission multi-teams simultaneously, multi-team formation is considered a bi-objective optimization problem. Because there is a tradeoff between the two objectives in this problem, no ideal mission multi-team that minimizes cost \(c_M\) and maximizes robustness \(k_M\) exists. Therefore, the “optimal” mission multi-team for this problem is defined as Pareto optimization.

Definition 12 (Dominance)

Considering two mission multi-teams \(\text{MMT}\) and \(\text{MMT}'\) that satisfy the constraints, the cost of \(\text{MMT}\) is \(c_M\) and its robustness is \(k_M\), whereas the cost of \(\text{MMT}'\) is \(c_M'\) and its robustness is \(k_M'\). The dominance of \(\text{MMT}\) over \(\text{MMT}'\) means that \((c_M \leq c_M'\) and \(k_M > k_M')\) or \((c_M < c_M'\) and \(k_M \geq k_M')\).

Definition 13 (Pareto Optimality)

If no constraint-satisfying multi-team \(\text{MMT}'\) dominates the constraint-satisfying multi-team \(\text{MMT}\), \(\text{MMT}\) is said to be a Pareto optimal mission multi-team.

Definition 14 (Bi-objective Optimization Problem)

Input: \(\text{CMTF} = \langle A, S, M, \text{cost, skill, constraint} \rangle\)

Output: All Pareto optimal mission multi-teams \((T, m)\) satisfying the constraints. A typical MOCOP (Marinescu, 2010; Rollon and Larrosa, 2006) is Pareto optimal in the worst case for all possible assignments.
At this time, we can consider the optimization problem of MOCRMTF, where the robustness goal is fixed and the goal is to minimize the cost.

Definition 15 (Optimization Problem with Fixed Robustness)

Input: $CMTF = \langle A, S, M, cost, skill, constraint \rangle$ and robust goal $k(x, k \in \mathbb{N})$.
Output: Pareto optimal mission multi-team that satisfies constraints and has robustness $k$.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Algorithm of MOCRMTF

An algorithm for the optimization problem with fixed robustness is based on the branch-and-bound method (Lawler and Wood, 1966), which guarantees to output a mission multi-team with the lowest cost among mission multi-teams satisfying constraints with the same robustness as the robust goal. Algorithm 1 illustrates the initialization procedure. First, $S$ and $As$ are initialized to be empty. No agent is assigned to any team in the pre-search phase, so each mission multi-team is an empty set (line 6). $RAs$ stores the robustness of the current partial team assignment $As$ (line 7) and is used to determine whether the robustness objective has been achieved. Note that the algorithm assumes that the order of agents is given lexicographically to create the search tree. The search for the solution starts from the root node of the search technique, which is the first agent in the agent order (line 9).

Algorithm 2 shows the pseudocode that demonstrates the solution details. It takes an integer $N$ as a parameter and attempts to assign an agent in the $N$th of $A$ to each mission team $(T, m)$ (lines 10, 11). If the agent does not have any skills related to the mission of $m$ and cannot contribute to the team, the assignment to this mission team $(T, m)$ is ignored (lines 15-17). Next, the agent’s constraints are evaluated, and if there is already an opponent in $(T, m)$ who is prohibited from being assigned to the same team, the assignment is ignored as well (lines 18-20). If both skills and constraints are satisfied, the agent is added to the team $T$ of $(T, m) \in As$ (line 21). Then, if the cost of $As$ exceeds the cost of the current solution by adding the agent to $T$, the agent’s assignment is canceled ($T \leftarrow T \setminus \{a\}$) and the search continues with the next team assignment (lines 23-26). Finally, the robustness of $As$ is evaluated (lines 26-36). The basic idea of this part is to detect the possibility of the current partial team assignment $As$ not resulting in a mission multi-team that satisfies the robustness goal. At least $t$ agents are required to increase the robustness of $t$ mission teams. Therefore, the minimum number of agents required to obtain an effective mission multi-team can be calculated for the remaining mission teams (lines 27-32). If the number of remaining unallocated agents is less than this minimum number, it means that no valid mission multi-team can be found. Simultaneously, the robustness of the current mission multi-team by storing the minimum robustness value of each mission team is computed (line 33). $(|A| - N)$ is the maximum number of agents that can still be added to $As$. If this number is less than the minimum agents required $MinAgent$, it is pointless to continue with the current partial team allocation $As$. Therefore, the agent assignment is canceled, and we continue the search with the next team assignment (lines 34-36). By evaluating skills, constraints, costs, and robustness, pruning reduces branching and the search space. If the current assignment passes all evaluations, the search continues with the next agent (line 38). We also need to cover and search for branches that do not assign agent $a$ to all teams (line 41). If $As$ satisfies the robustness target, i.e., $RAs \geq targetRobust, cost(As) \leq cost(S)$ is guaranteed because the cost is checked when making the assignment. Therefore, $As$ is the dominant solution for $S$. Therefore, $S$ is set to $As$ and $solutionCost$ is updated (lines 1-5). Finally, it backtracks and continues the search (lines 5, 42). The case, where the allocation is completed without satisfying the robust goal needs to be handled at this time (line 8).

Algorithm 1: Constrained Multi-Teams Formation Target Robustness.

Output: Mission multi-team $S$
1: $S$: a MMT //Current solution
2: $S \leftarrow \emptyset$
3: $As$: a MMT //Current assignments
4: $As \leftarrow \emptyset$
5: for each mission $m$ of $M$ do
6:   $As \leftarrow As \cup \{0, m\}$ //All missions are added to $As$
7: end for
8: $RAs$ //Current assignments’ robustness
9: $RAs \leftarrow 0$
10: target-resolve (1, $RAs$, $As$, $S$, $CMTF$)
11: return $S$
Algorithm 2: target-resolve($N, R_A, As, S, CMTF$).

1: //1) Judge if $As$ is an appropriate solution 
2: if $R_A ≥ targetRobust$ then 
3: $S ← As$ 
4: solutionCost ← cost($As$) // Initial value of solutionCost is $∞$ 
5: return 
6: end if 
7: //All agents have been assigned 
8: if $N > |A|$ then 
9: return 
10: end if 
11: the $N^{th}$ agent of $A$ 
12: //2) Assign agent $N$ to a mission 
13: for each $(T, m)$ of $As$ do 
14: //3) Check the $T$ robustness 
15: if $T$’s robustness $k ≥ targetRobust$ then 
16: continue 
17: end if 
18: //4) Check if $a$ can accomplish a task of $m$ 
19: if $skill(a) ∩ m = ∅$ then 
20: continue 
21: end if 
22: //5) Check a constraint 
23: if $constraint(a) ∩ T ≠ ∅$ then 
24: continue 
25: end if 
26: $T ← T ∪ \{a\}$ 
27: //6) Check the cost bound 
28: if $cost(As) > solutionCost$ then 
29: $T ← T \{a\}$ 
30: continue 
31: end if 
32: //7) Check multi-team robustness 
33: $MinAgent ← 0$ 
34: for each pair $(T_i, m_i)$ of $As$ do 
35: if $T_i$ is not valid w.r.t. $m_i$ then 
36: $MinAgent ← MinAgent + targetRobust + 1$ 
37: end if 
38: if $T_i$’s robustness is $k$ w.r.t. $m$ and $k < targetRobust$ then 
39: $MinAgent ← MinAgent + (targetRobust - k)$ 
40: $R_A ← min(R_A, k)$ 
41: end if 
42: end for 
43: if $(|A| - N) < |A|$ then 
44: $T ← T \{a\}$ 
45: continue 
46: end if 
47: //8-1) Continue the search with the next agent 
48: target-resolve($N + 1, R_A, As, S, CMTF$) 
49: end if 
50: //8-2) Continue the search with the next agent 
51: target-resolve($N + 1, R_A, As, S, CMTF$) 
52: return

### 4.2 Computational Complexity of MOCRMTF

The computational complexity of MOCRMTF is given by the following proposition, where $m$ represents the number of missions, $n$ represents the number of agents, $s$ represents the total number of skills, and the number of agents is sufficiently larger than the total number of skills and missions.

**Proposition:** The worst-case space complexity of our proposed MOCRMTF algorithm is $O(n(m + 1)^n)$ and the worst-case time complexity is $O(n(m + 1)^{n+1})$.

**Proof of Space Complexity:** From the number of missions $m$ and the number of agents $n$, the number of patterns in the allocation of all agents is $(m + 1)^n$, which is the number of mission multi-teams that need to be saved in the worst case. Mission multi-teams can be expressed in terms of allocation, constraints, robustness, and cost. Since an agent can only belong to one mission team, the allocation can be represented as a vector of integers of size $n$, where each component represents a team of one agent. The team’s constraints can be represented by a vector of integers of size $n$ since it can be denoted by the sum of the constraints of each agent. It is sufficient to store the number of agents corresponding to a mission so that it can be characterized as a vector of integers of size $s$ to calculate robustness for each mission team $(T, m)$ in $As$. The cost calculation can be performed with constant memory. Therefore, the amount of spatial computation is limited by $O((n + n + s) × (m + 1)^n) = O(n(m + 1)^n)$.

**Proof of time complexity:** Let $ST$ be the total number of partial assignments and $j$ be a non-negative integer $(1 ≤ j ≤ n)$. Considering that only one agent can change mission teams at a given time, there are $(m + 1)^j$ possible assignments for the first $j$ agents in the sequence when no pruning occurs, so the total number of partial assignments $ST$ is given by

$$\sum_{j=1}^{N} (m + 1)^j = \frac{(m + 1)^{N+1} - 1}{m + 1 - 1} = \frac{(m + 1)^{N+1} - 1}{m} - 1$$

This value is bounded by $O((m + 1)^{n+1})$. Assigning a new agent $a$ to a mission team $(T', m')$ with partial allocation $As$ requires the following summary calculations.

- Checking $(skill(a) ∩ m' ≠ ∅)$ if the agent $a$ can achieve $m'$. This operation is linear (i.e., in the worst case, $(T', m' )$ possesses a vector of the number of agents corresponding to the mission), so we only need to check the skills of $a$, and the computational complexity is bounded by the number of skills $s$. 


• Checking \((\text{constraint}(a) \cap T \neq \emptyset)\) if \((T', m')\) satisfies the constraints. This operation is linear, i.e., in the worst case, we only need to check all constraints on \(a\) and all agents assigned to \(T\), so the computational complexity is bounded by \(n + n\).

• Updating the robustness of \((T', m')\). As mentioned earlier, \((T', m')\) possesses a vector of the number of agents corresponding to the mission, so the maximum computational complexity is limited by the number of elements in the vector \(s\).

• Checking the robustness of \(A\). This operation checks all \(m\) mission teams if the robustness of each mission team before the assignment is known. Alternatively, the computation can be performed when updating the robustness of the team that assigned \(A\), so the computational complexity is limited by \(m + s\).

Thus, the computational complexity of the entire operation is \(O(2n + s + s + m) = O(n)\). In addition, the cost computation does not affect the overall computational complexity because it can be performed in a constant number of operations, just adding the agent’s cost to the known cost before the assignment. If pruning does not occur, \(ST\) times operations occur, and this computational complexity is \(O((m + 1)^{s+1} \times n) = O(n(m + 1)^{s+1})\). Finally, the algorithm checks if \(A\) is dominated by the current solution if \(A\) is a complete assignment. However, this operation only needs to compare the known values of cost and robustness with all solutions, and since the number of solutions is at most \((m + 1)^n\), as mentioned earlier, the computational complexity is limited to \(O((m + 1)^n)\). Therefore, the overall computational complexity is \(O((m(m + 1)^{s+1} + (m + 1)^n) = O(n(m + 1)^{s+1})\).

5 EVALUATIONS

5.1 Experimental Setup

In this experiment, the agent cost is fixed (i.e., the cost is the same, regardless of which team is assigned to the mission multi-team). Thus, this is not a problem of minimizing agents and destinations but minimizing the purchasing agent cost. In our experiments, we change the number of constraints, robustness, and the order in which agents are assigned.

The basic parameters are as follows:

• Number of agents is 18.

• Number of mission teams is 2.

• Cost of agents is chosen uniformly at random from a range of \([10, 11, \ldots, 100]\).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of teams</th>
<th>Average runtime</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>14.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>527.59</td>
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</table>

• Number of missions per team is three. No two teams can have the same mission, and no two teams can have the same mission.

• Agent skill is determined uniformly at random, but the number is subject to the next section. Each agent’s number of skills is determined randomly in a range of \([1, 2, \ldots, (\text{number of teams} \times 3) − 1]\). The breakdown is as close to the same as possible.

• The number of constraints is 10.

• The number of robust goals is two.

• The number of constraints was changed in a range of \([1, 2, \ldots, 20]\).

• Robustness was changed in a range of \([1, 2, 3]\). There are seven assignment orders for agents, which are summarized as follows: Random, Ascending order of agent cost, Descending order of agent cost, Ascending order of agent skills, Descending order of agent skills, Ascending order of agent constraints, meaning that the number of agents prohibited to be paired, and Descending order of agent constraints.

• Each simulation was performed 100 times under the same conditions.

5.2 Experimental Results

Table 1 shows the average runtime of an experiment to change the number of mission teams. In the experiment of changing the number of mission teams, the average runtime was shorter than that of the bi-objective optimization problem. Especially, it was very short in three mission teams. This is because the effect of pruning of robustness is large. Furthermore, more efficient exploration is possible under many mission teams since at least \(m + 1\) agents are required when the robustness is \(m\) in a mission team.

Table 2 lists the average runtime of an experiment to change the number of constraints. In changing the number of constraints, the average runtime tends to decrease as the number of constraints increases, especially when agents are assigned in descending order of the number of constraints.

Table 3 shows the average runtime of an experiment to change the robustness. In changing the robustness goal, the larger the goal, the longer the runtime. This is because the larger the goal, the more
Table 2: Average runtime of an experiment to change the number of constraints (unit: s).

<table>
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<tr>
<th># of constraints</th>
<th>Random</th>
<th>Cost (Ascending)</th>
<th>Cost (Descending)</th>
<th>Skill (Ascending)</th>
<th>Skill (Descending)</th>
<th>Constraint (Ascending)</th>
<th>Constraint (Descending)</th>
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Table 3: Average runtime of an experiment to change the robust goal (unit: s).

<table>
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<th>Robust goal</th>
<th>Random</th>
<th>Cost (Ascending)</th>
<th>Cost (Descending)</th>
<th>Skill (Ascending)</th>
<th>Skill (Descending)</th>
<th>Constraint (Ascending)</th>
<th>Constraint (Descending)</th>
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</table>

agents are assigned to the team that solves the problem, and the search tree is sufficiently deep to satisfy the goal. When the goal is small, the runtime is shorter when the number of skills is assigned in descending order, but when the goal is large, the runtime is shorter when the number of skills is assigned in ascending order.

The substantial difference in runtime of skill order, depending on the robustness goal, is related to the agent’s importance. The smaller the goal, the smaller the number of agents required. Thus, the ratio of patterns satisfying robustness becomes larger with respect to the number of patterns in the allocation. As a result, the smaller the goal, the easier it is to find patterns satisfying the condition. Agents with higher skills are important because they are more likely to contribute to the goal than other agents with lower skills. When the number of robustness is small, the condition can be satisfied through a greedy approach, by assigning the most important agent with the highest number of skills. As a result, cost pruning works early in the search. When the number of goals is large, the number of patterns that satisfy the goal is small. Therefore, satisfying the condition is challenging unless the search is sufficiently conducted in advance.

When agents are assigned in ascending order of the number of skills and descending order of the number of constraints, the runtime becomes shorter because the pruning in each check has a higher probability close to the root node. When the number of constraints increases, agents are assigned in descending order of the number of constraints.

6 CONCLUSION

Mission-oriented team formation to accomplish a given set of missions is an important problem in multi-agent systems. This study introduced a framework for an MOCRMTF problem. The objective of this problem was to satisfy the constraint that competing agents cannot belong to the same team while ensuring robustness, which is the ability to accomplish a given mission, even if some agents fail, thereby minimizing the cost of the team. We proposed an algorithm for the optimization problem with a fixed robustness goal to solve this problem and investigated the computational classes and their complexity.

In our experiments, we showed that the runtime varies, depending on the search order of agents. If the
condition was easy to satisfy, the pruning of costs was effective in the early stage of the search by allocating agents with high importance. Alternatively, when the condition was not easily satisfied, it helped increase the pruning of the search space by allocating agents that were more likely to be pruned, such as agents with fewer skills or more constraints.

The possible future work is as follows. In this experiment, the cost was set to be the same, regardless of the agent's team, and the cost's value was determined randomly. However, the problem may change significantly by changing the cost setting. As a change in the framework, the robustness of multi-teams was assumed to be the minimum value of the team to which it belongs, but the robustness of multi-teams can be generalized by allowing each team to set its own robustness goal, thereby making the model more similar to a real-world environment. In this case, it is expected that the complexity of robustness results in more Pareto optimal solutions, so it is necessary to develop a fast algorithm for finding an approximate solution.

REFERENCES


